

Update on the 8-in-6 Program

February 2013

Section 33-1628

The 8-in-6 Program, approved by the Idaho Legislature in 2012, allows students to take accredited online overage and online summer courses, paid for in part by the state, in order to complete their required high school courses at an accelerated rate and go on to earn college credit while still in high school.

The title “8-in-6” refers to completing eight years of education (two years of junior high, four years of high school, and first two years of college, university or professional technical education) in six years (two years of junior high and four years of high school).

Students may begin the program in the 7th grade and must complete at least one online summer or online overload course, in addition to their full course load, each school year.

The state will pay for up to two online summer courses and two online overload courses per student per school year, for a maximum of four courses per year. The state will pay for a maximum of eight credits of online summer/overload courses per student during their participation in the 8-in-6 program. This does not preclude students from taking additional summer or overload courses at their own cost. If a student receives a grade lower than a C in one of the state-paid online summer/overload courses, the student must pay for and complete another online summer/overload course with a grade of C or better before continuing in the program.

The state will pay \$225 per online course. If the cost of the online course exceeds \$225, the student will be responsible to pay the difference. There is one exception to this. In FY2013 (the current school year), Idaho Digital Learning is providing the online courses necessary for the 8-in-6 program, thanks to a legislative appropriation of more than \$5 million. The cost to the student of these courses in FY2013 is not to exceed \$75 per course.

The program is limited to 10% of students in each grade level. Unfilled slots can be reallocated within the school district. If a school district doesn't fill all of their slots, those unfilled slots can be reallocated from the state-level to another school district. If more than 10% of students want to participate, preference is given to students who have already completed an online course. Districts may also choose to give preference to students based on GPA, state achievement test results (ISAT), or district-level test results.

The 8-in-6 program dovetails with the Dual Credit for Early Completers Program and Mastery Advancement Pilot Program (MAPP). If students complete their high school graduation requirements early through 8-in-6, they can choose one of two options. Through the Dual Credit for Early Completers Program, the student can take dual credit courses paid for by the state while still in high school. Through MAPP, the student can graduate early and attend an Idaho public college or university on a scholarship. The student receives 35% of the annual average daily attendance (ADA) their school district would've received for that student as a scholarship. Thirty-five percent (35%) of the ADA is distributed to the school district, and the remaining 30% is savings to the state.

Senators Thayn and Durst have introduced Senate Bill 1091 this year that would reestablish the Dual Credit for Early Completers Program in Idaho and make technical changes to the 8-in-6 program. The bill has passed the Senate Education Committee. The full bill is available online at <http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2013/S1091.htm>.

Per Idaho Code, the state is working to create forms for districts to utilize in enrolling students in the 8-in-6 program and to notify the state when all slots have been allocated or when unfilled slots are still available. We will have more information on this available during the Post-Legislative Tour and expect to have forms available during Summer 2013.

To view the initial legislation that created the 8-in-6 program, please visit: <http://legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2012/H0426E1.pdf>